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Message Text

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11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 /087 W
---------- 028655
R 251400Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2446
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 15721

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IN, US
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER AGAIN WARNS OF EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL
INFLUENCES

REFA: NEW DELHI 15308

1. MRS. GANDHI HAS ONCE AGAIN ASSERTED THAT THERE ARE EXTER-
NAL PRESSURES FROM ALL SIDES ON INDIA TO "COMPEL US TO ABANDON OUR
INDEPENDENT PATH OF DEVELOPMENT." SPEAKING TO A MEETING OF
PRIMARY TEACHERS IN NEW DELHI ON NOVEMBER 24, THE PRIME MINISTER
ASSERTED THAT EXCESSIVE AND DANGEROUS PRESSURE WAS BEING EXERTED
ON INDIA BY INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL FORCES TO SEE THAT INDIA DID
NOT PURSUE A POLICY OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM. SHE LASHED OUT AT
"FOREIGN POWERS." SHE SAID, "THE OPPOSITION WANTED PROOF. WE
HAVE THE PROOF NOW IN WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OUR NEIGHBORING
COUNTRY." MRS. GANDHI ALSO SAID:
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-- COUNTRIES ALL AROUND US AR PILING UP ARMS AND THEIR INTENTIONS ARE NOT GOOD. WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL AND VIGILANT. WHENEVER I HAVE TALKED OF DANGER TO THE COUNTRY, SOMETHING OR OTHER HAS HAPPENED WITHIN A MONTH, TWO MONTHS, OR SIX MONTHS. NOBODY CAN SAY MY FEARS ARE UNFOUNDED.

-- ALL KINDS OF PRESSURES ARE BEING USED AGAINST INDIA, INCLUDING ECONOMIC PRESSURE.

-- POOR NATIONS ARE BEING HARASSED BY SOME WEALTHY AND ADVANCED NATIONS.

-- ACTS OFHOOLIGANISM AND VANDALISM, BURNING BUSES, WRITING WALL SLOGANS, AND DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS BY SOME MISGUIDED YOUTH, WHO THINK SUCH ARE ACTS OF BRAVERY, ARE ACTS OF COWARDICE AS THEY TEND TO WEAKEN THE NATION.

-- I DO NOT KNOW HOW COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE CRYING THE DEMOCRACY IN INDIA HAS BEEN DESTROYED, ALTHOUGH THEY THEMSELVES HAVE DESTROYED DEMOCRACY IN OTHER COUNTRIES, CAN CRITICIZE INDIA FOR FOLLOWING DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES.

-- CERTAIN FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS WHICH SYMPATHIZE WITH THE OPPOSITION HAVE NEVER REPORTED THE PROGRESS INDIA HAS MADE.

-- FREEDOM DOES NOT MEAN FREEDOM TO WRITE OR SAY WHATEVER ONE LIKED, BUT MEANT FREEDOM FOR THE COUNTRY TO FOLLOW THE PATH IT HAD ADOPTED AND WHETHER IT COULD TAKE A STAND ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS WITHOUT PRESSURE.

-- THE REAL ISSUE NOT MY LEADERSHIP, BUT RETAINING FREEDOM TO FOLLOW OUR CHOSEN PATH WHICH SOME EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL FORCES WANTED THE COUNTRY TO GIVE UP (SIC)

-- WE WILL FOLLOW OUR OWN MODEL OF SOCIALIST DEVELOPMENT, NOT THE SOVIET MODEL, OR ANY OTHER MODEL.

-- THE OPPOSITION IS NOT NECESSARILY AGAINST FREEDOM, BUT THEY WERE SO BLINDED BY HATE THAT THEY COULD NOT DISCERN

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THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY.

-- "I KNOW I AM ON THE RIGHT PATH, AND WILL CONTINUE ON IT WHETHER THERE IS ANY OPPOSITION."

-- INDIAN ARMY JAWANS, ENLISTED MEN, ARE CONCERNED ABOUT LACK OF DISCIPLINE AMONG THE PEOPLE. WHENEVER WE VISIT THEM IN THE BORDER AREAS WHERE THEY AND THEIR OFFICERS ARE

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DOING THEIR DUTY, THEY ASK WHY IS THERE NO DISCIPLINE AMONG THE PEOPLE. THE EMERGENCY HAS BROUGHT ABOUT SOME DISCIPLINE, BUT IT WAS YET TO BE SEEN WHETHER IT WAS SUPERFICIAL OR BECOMING A NATIONAL HABIT.

2. THE ABOVE REPORTAGE IS A DIATILLATION OF SEVERAL ACCOUNTS OF MRS. GANDHI'S SPEECH. THERE IS SOME VARIATION IN THE REPORTAGE, ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT CONTRADICTORY.

3. COMMENT: MRS.GANDHI'SREMARKS, IN HINDI WITH NO ENGLISH TRANSLATION THUS FAR AVAILABLE TO US ALTHOUGH WE ARE STILL TRANSLATING A HINDI VERSION OURSELVES, ARE STRONG MEDICINE. SHE SOUNDS ANGRY, HER REFERENCE TO THE UNVARYING REALIZATION OF HER WARNINGS OF THREATS AND DANGER ARE OMINOUS, AND HER ALLUSIONS TO "FOREIGN POWERS" ARETHE STRONGEST WE CAN RECALL HER USING IN RECENT MONTHS. IN SEPTEL WE TOUCH ON BANGLADESH ASPECTS OF HER COMMENTS, BUT WE THINK THERE IS ALSO A STRONG DOMESTIC COMPONENT AS WELL. SHE APPEARS TO BE PREPARING A DOMESTIC AUDIENCE FOR SOMETHING--WHETHER IT RELATES TO THE ELECTIONS, THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION, NEW CONSTRAINTS ON DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONS, OR WHATEVER. THERE IS LITTLE SIGN OF RELAXATION OF TENSION IN HER SPEECH THAT WE CAN DETECT.
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